

**Site Visit Summary Report for Little Stony Creek in Scott County  
Nominated for Exceptional Waters Designation  
August 29, 2007**

As required by DEQ Exceptional State Waters Guidance Memorandum No. 04-2021, DEQ staff (one from Central Office and two from South West Regional Office) conducted a site survey of Little Stony Creek within Scott County to determine if the segment nominated for Tier III designation met the eligibility criteria required for regulatory designation as Exceptional State Waters.

**Boundary Description**

Little Stony Creek from Bark Camp Lake dam to its confluence with Bakers Branch. Total length of nominated segment: 7.25 miles.

**Observations**

Little Stony Creek is accessible by a Forest Service road that roughly parallels approximately the upper half of the nominated segment and a vehicle parking area near the Falls of Little Stony. A hiking path also accompanies the upper portion. The lower third passes through a relatively steep sided gorge which only allows for access by foot.

Little Stony Creek is currently assessed as having no impairment and fully supporting for all designated uses. It is classed by the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF) as a Class vi Stockable Trout waters. This classification means the stream does not contain a significant number of trout nor a significant population of warmwater gamefish. Water quality is adequate and water temperature good for summer carryover of stocked trout. Summer flow remains fair and adjacent land is not extensively developed. All streams in this class would be considered good trout stocking water. Only those waters with a DGIF Class i or ii Natural Trout Waters designation are considered to automatically satisfy the exceptional aquatic community eligibility criterion.

The first observations were made just below the Bark Camp Lake dam. Flow was very low due to ongoing drought conditions. Most of the stream bottom immediately below the dam was covered with an orange/rust-colored coating. A cursory benthic survey was done and pollution tolerant species were noted. No fish were observed. Additional observations were made approximately two miles downstream of the dam. Here the substrate is dominated by cobble with some boulder and exposed bedrock. A cursory benthic



survey was done and benthic macroinvertebrate species of the ephemeroptera (mayflies), plecoptera (stoneflies), and trichoptera (caddis flies) families were observed. The general surroundings were aesthetically pleasing with the exception of several well used primitive campsites containing trash. Again, stream flow was low.



Final observations were made in the vicinity of the Falls of Little Stony. The Falls and the associated geologic formation are rather impressive. The largest detractor from otherwise attractive surroundings was quite noticeable amounts of trash, debris, and other signs of negative human impact such as graffiti on the stairway to the base of the Falls and vandalism to the footbridge across the top of the Falls. See Appendix A for additional images.





### **Recreational Opportunities**

The nominated segment of Little Stony Creek provides opportunities for day hikes, overnight backpacking and/or primitive camping, stocked trout fishing (during cooler months), photography, and bird- and wildlife watching. Although it is a relatively small mountain stream, Little Stony provides very challenging



whitewater kayak opportunities during higher stream flows and is popular and well known among “mountain creek” kayakers. Kayaking Little Stony Creek should only be attempted by skilled and experienced individuals due to the many Class IV, V, and V+ rapids. (Source: [http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/River\\_detail\\_id\\_3065\\_](http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/River_detail_id_3065_) ).

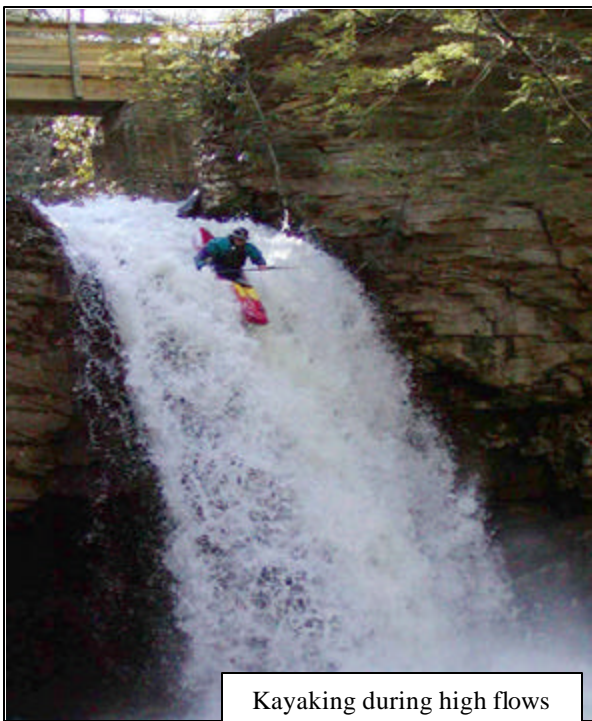
### **Conclusions**

The environmental settings of the observed portions of Little Stony Creek are attractive and the Falls of Little Stony provide a prominent outstanding feature similar to those that have characterized other Exceptional State Waters. First and foremost, a waterbody nominated for Exceptional State Waters designation must meet the primary criterion of possessing an exceptional environmental setting to be considered eligible to enter the regulatory process. Staff conducting the site visit concurs that meeting the primary criterion of possessing an exceptional environmental setting is “borderline” in regards to Little Stony Creek due to the negative human impacts observed in easily accessible areas. It is the opinion of staff that conducted the eligibility survey that the exceptional environmental setting criterion may be met though the presence of litter raises some concern. The stream and its immediate environs provide potential for outstanding recreational

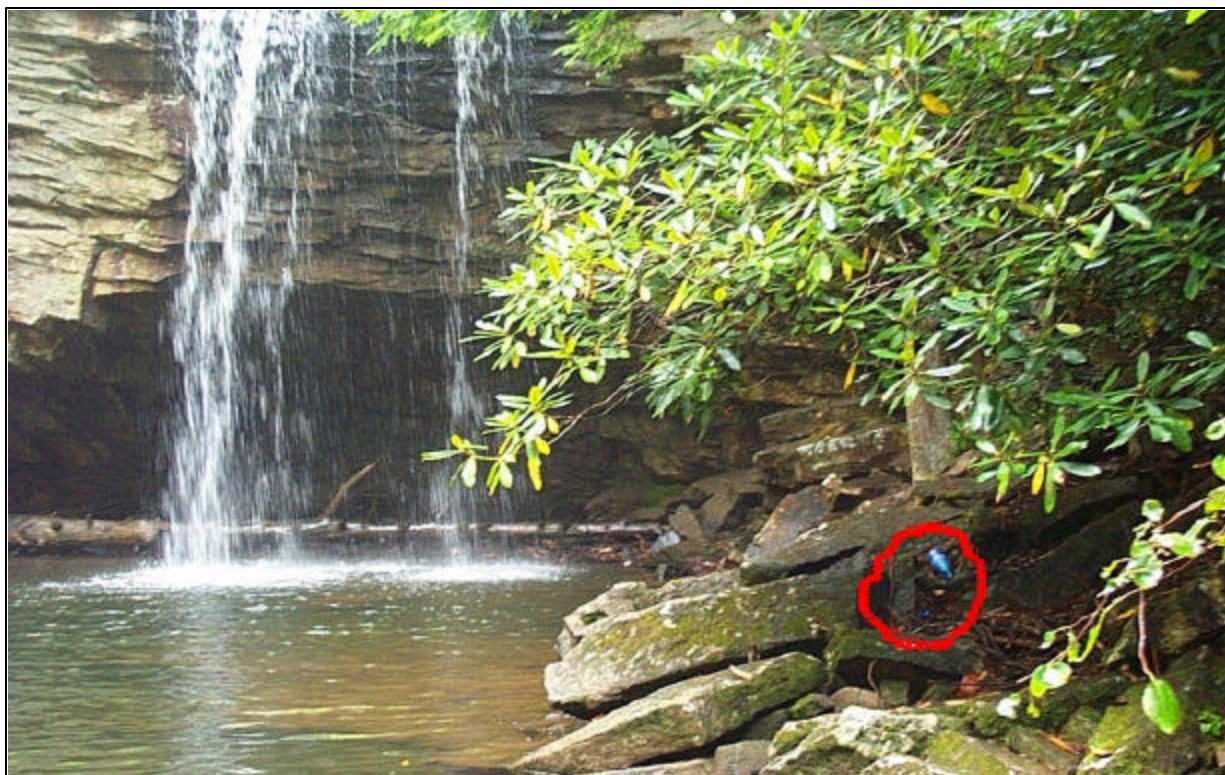




opportunities in the form of hiking, camping, and high flow mountain creek whitewater kayaking.

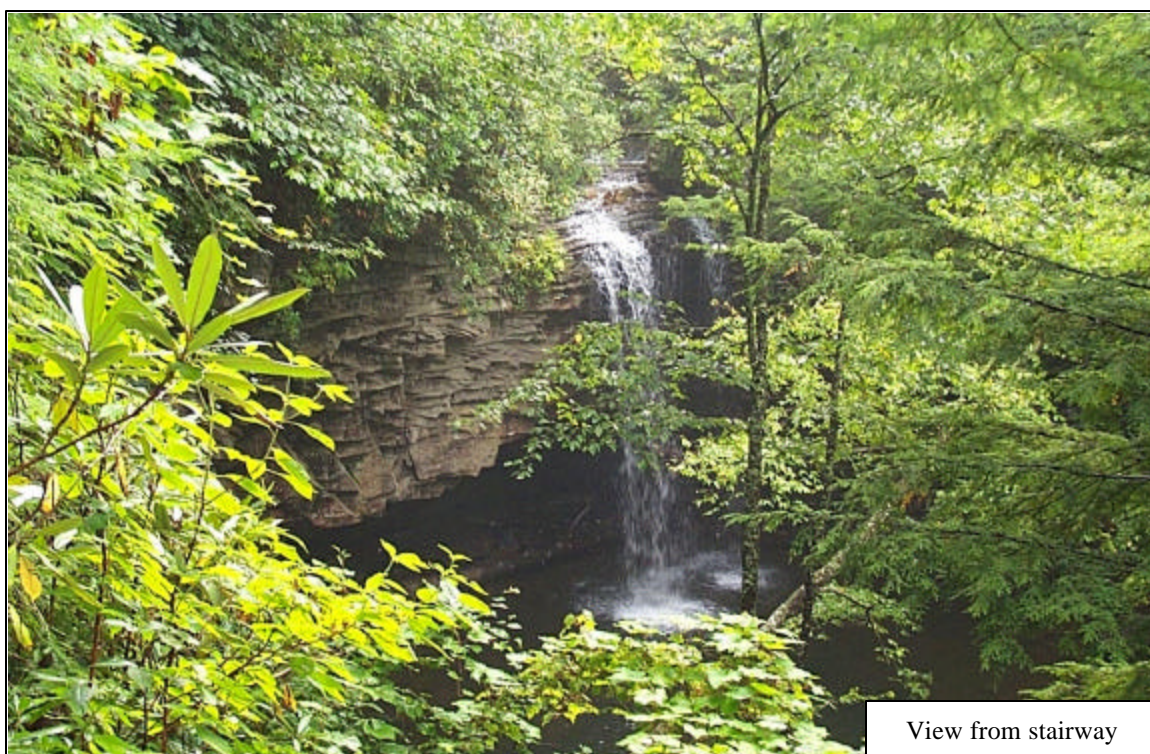
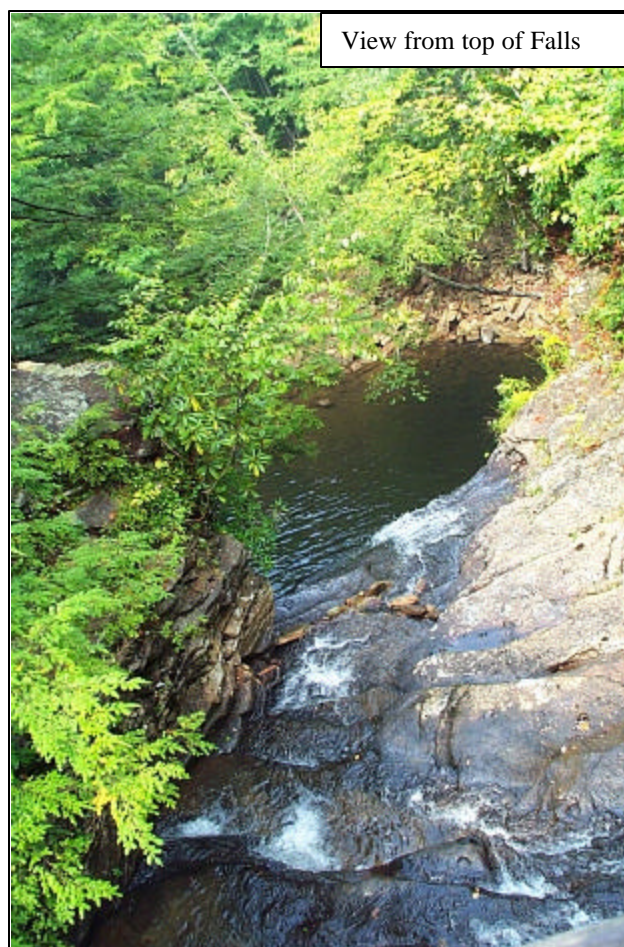
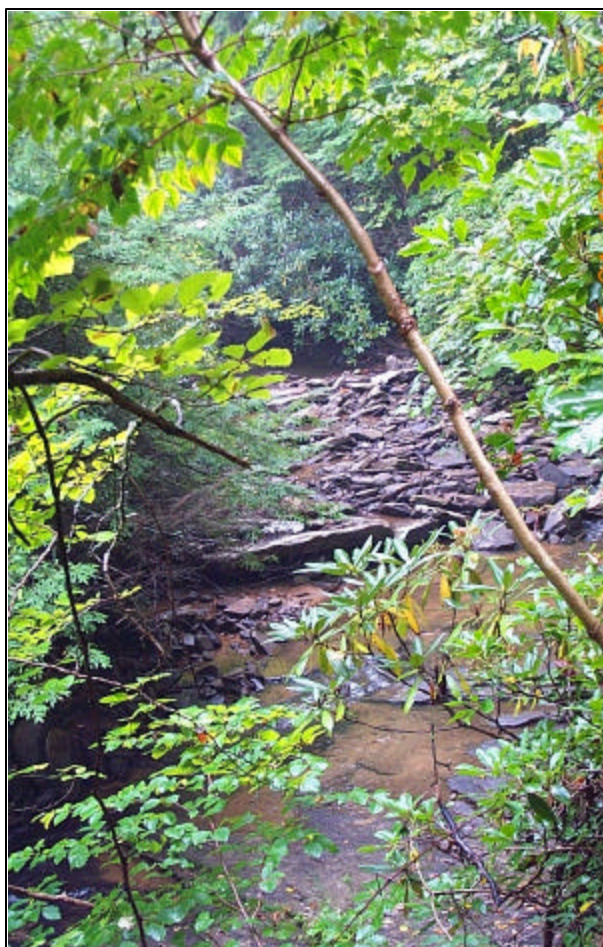


(Source: [http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/River\\_detail\\_id\\_3065](http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/River_detail_id_3065) )





## APPENDIX A







Litter around plunge  
pool at base of Falls

